



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014

Opinion



Skills to Build in Construction?

Do we have the skills to build the homes and infrastructure needed in Hertfordshire and the rest of the South East? Joe Austin of Constructing Excellence and Alex Mortimer of the University of Hertfordshire give their thoughts on the challenges ahead.

[Read more...](#)

News



Passivhaus Trust issues policy statement ahead of election

The UK Passivhaus Trust has developed a Draft Policy Statement, in collaboration with delegates attending the 2014 UK Passivhaus Conference in Stevenage. The policy statement will be taken to political parties to include in their manifesto for the 2015 general election asking the next Government to recognise that the Passivhaus Standard is an exemplary method for meeting the Near Zero Energy Buildings target. The full statement can be read [here](#).

Right to Build consultation



Further reforms to help self-builders build their own home in their local area are being proposed. The Right to Build would give prospective custom builders a right to a plot of land from their local council. The consultation and nine vanguards, which will test the practicalities of the right, will inform legislation, firstly through the Self Build and Custom Housebuilding Private Members' Bill and via future legislation next parliament.

The consultation closes 18 December and is available [here](#).

Zero Carbon Homes exemptions



In further support of small development firms and self-builders, the Government are consulting on exemptions from the zero carbon homes standard for 2016. Views on whether exemptions should relate to development size or developer size, and what the thresholds should be, are being sought.

The consultation closes 7 January and is available [here](#).

Dates for your diary



- Current issues in delivering housing
[2 December, Cambourne](#)
 - Managing structural risk of collapse
[3 December, Hatfield](#)
 - Regenerating town centres
[4 December, Sheffield](#)
 - Sustainable living in master planned communities
[11 December, Hatfield](#)
 - Building the city
[28 January, Peterborough](#)
-

BuildingFutures: Promoting, Facilitating & Rewarding Excellence





Toolkit

Design Review

Awards

[Sign up](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



hertslink.org/buildingfutures

© Hertfordshire County Council, 2014
County Hall, Peg's Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN